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22 July 2020

Excellency,

In view of the continued obstructive and arbitrary policy of the Greek Cypriot administration regarding the crossing of individuals between the two sides in Cyprus, I deem it necessary to bring the following considerations to your kind attention, particularly at a time when the deliberations at the Security Council in relation to the extension of the mandate of UNFICYP are underway.

It is very regrettable that as of 1 July 2020, Turkish Cypriot citizens of different origins, as well as foreign nationals (including EU) who arrived on the island via South Cyprus, have been prevented and in some cases detained by the Greek Cypriot administration when they tried to cross to or from North Cyprus. Similarly, the Greek Cypriot side has decided, again with political considerations, to keep the Lokmacı (Ledra Street) crossing point closed, which is arguably the most important crossing point in terms of the volume of crossings and the economic activity it generates in the North through tourism.

It is not possible to explain these restrictions by invoking the measures taken in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is clear that these ill-intentioned and politically-motivated decisions are part and parcel of the isolation policy of the Greek Cypriot administration to harm the economy and curtail the tourism of North Cyprus and the unfortunate and dire conditions created by the pandemic are being exploited to this end.

A recent example among many documented cases of this obstructionist policy took place today, when a Turkish Cypriot bearing Australian passport who arrived to the island via South Cyprus was detained, harassed and her documents were confiscated at the Greek Cypriot crossing point. After all the ordeal she had to endure, without giving her any reason whatsoever, she was not allowed to cross to North Cyprus. Needless to say, such restrictions, which clearly have no relation to the fight against the pandemic, not only render meaningless any effort aimed at building

H.E. Mr. Christoph Heusgen  
Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations  
President of the Security Council for the month of July 2020  
United Nations  
New York.

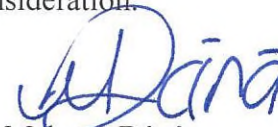
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confidence between the two sides, but also clearly contradict the call made by the UN Secretary-General in this regard. The Secretary-General underlined in his latest report on his good offices mission in Cyprus (S/2020/685) that "*it is essential that movement within the island be allowed along with incoming travel*". In the same paragraph, he also called "*for the full reopening of all crossing points*" (para 48). We trust that these considerations of the Secretary-General will be echoed by the Security Council in its upcoming Resolution.

We believe that the UN Security Council should not condone this provocative and hostile Greek Cypriot policy by remaining silent, as it not only violates the free movement of people throughout the island, but also further diminishes the level of trust between the two peoples in Cyprus.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Mehmet Dâna  
Representative

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